

February 2, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 205100

Dear Mr. President:

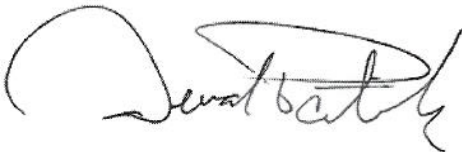
We are writing today to express our support for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which passed last week in the House and is under consideration currently in the Senate. As stewards of the economies of our respective states and regions, we urge the Congress to reach prompt resolution of all outstanding differences and you to sign the bill when it reaches your desk.

Families and businesses across the nation are hurting. Credit markets have seized up, which is affecting both business activity and consumer spending. Unemployment is rising sharply. While we all believe in the importance of free markets, we believe that the markets today need stimulating.

We support the objectives of ARRA and welcome the partnership it offers us as governors. The support for a temporary increase in the federal commitment for public education, health care (including cost control through initiatives such as health records IT), and for rebuilding our public infrastructure will create and preserve jobs today, and represents a sound investment in our long-term economic interests as well. We look forward to working with Congress and your Administration to advance an economic recovery package that puts federal dollars to work in our states in the quickest and most efficient manner as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California



Governor Bill Ritter Jr.
Colorado



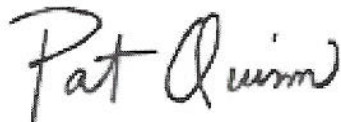
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Connecticut



Governor Jack Markell
Delaware



Governor Charlie Crist
Florida



Governor Pat Quinn
Illinois



Governor Chester J. Culver
Iowa



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan




Governor Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



Governor David A. Paterson
New York



Governor Ted Strickland
Ohio



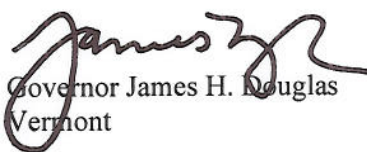
Governor Brad Henry
Oklahoma



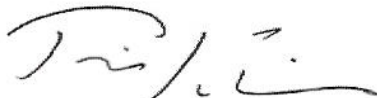
Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski
Oregon



Governor Edward G. Rendell
Pennsylvania




Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont



Governor Timothy M. Kaine
Virginia



Governor John deJongh Jr.
Virgin Islands



Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin